

# Alcohol/Drug Impaired Driving

Driving under the influence of alcohol remains a serious safety epidemic in not just California, but also the entire country.


Drunk driving crashes account for one-third of all traffic deaths. In 2016, 10,497 people were killed in alcohol-involved crashes nationwide, or one person every 50 minutes. In California, 1,059 people lost their lives in 2016 due to crashes involving a drunk driver, a 16 percent increase from 2015.


Like drunk driving, drug-impaired driving is a problem on our roadways. Whether the drug is legally prescribed, marijuana (both recreational and medicinal), or illegal drugs, driving while under the influence of drugs poses a threat to the driver, passengers and other roadway users.


With the recent legalization of recreational marijuana in California, it is important to understand that marijuana can also be impairing. Studies have shown marijuana can be impairing by slowing reaction times and lowering depth perception.

Something as simple as a cold medication or over-the-counter sleep aid could impair your driving. If you are taking a prescription drug, sleep medication or marijuana, you should not drive.

## By the numbers

 In 2015, 43% of all drivers killed in vehicle crashes tested positive for legal/illegal drugs.

 Of the drugs that California drivers tested positive for, marijuana was the most prevalent.

 In 2016, motorcycle riders involved in deadly crashes had higher percentages of alcohol impairment (25%) than drivers.



**DUI DOESN'T JUST MEAN BOOZE**

**Just like drunk driving, driving under the influence of drugs is a crime.**

**Combining alcohol with marijuana and/or prescription drugs with a driving warning label can be impairing and result in a DUI.**

**Some medications can be impairing up to 24 hours after taking them.**



**Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over**

To avoid getting a DUI, the California Office of Traffic Safety has these tips to ensure a safe night out:

- Always designate a sober driver.
- Use public transportation or a ride sharing service to get home.
- Have a friend or family member who is about to drive buzzed or impaired? Take the keys away and make arrangements to get them home safely.

## Costs of a DUI

The legal and monetary consequences of driving under the influence are steep with your time and money. A driving while impaired offense could cost up to \$10,000 for first-time offenders, which includes attorney and legal fees, restricted licensing, days off work to go to court, a criminal record and more.